



## Military Health System Health Care Reengineering:

***Be an Innovator and Create the Future!***

**Title of Initiative:** SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER (SANE) PROGRAM

**Type of Initiative:** Field Initiative

**Implementation Site(s):** Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

**Implementation Location(s):** Portsmouth, VA

**Date Submitted:** December 2001

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### **DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE**

The Emergency Medicine Department (EMD) at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) created optimization initiative that would provide all Emergency services required of the sexual assault patient. Working in conjunction with a local Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) group, the command's Naval Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) agent, command's Sexual Assault Volunteer Assistance (SAVI) coordinator, the EMD improved NMCP staff education regarding sexual assault. There was an increased in the number of patients evaluated at NMCP for sexual assault and satisfaction was improved for the beneficiaries served. Steps taken by NMCP to enhance this initiative included:

- Benchmarking with NMCP Pediatrics department to obtain necessary equipment including a Photo Colposcope and monitor.
- Creating a rape examination room within the EMD dedicated specifically for evidence collection and patient evaluation.
- Revising EMD policy & procedure regarding sexual assault (adult & pediatric) to include: procedures of patient placement, alerting of law enforcement, Naval Criminal Investigation Service and SANE nurse, coordination of medical treatment when required, proper counseling and patient education. Easy to follow algorithm in use for all participants.
- Coordinating with SAVI coordinator to establish recruiting drive to increase number of SAVI volunteers at NMCP.
- Networking with NMCP Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine Residency Directors to ensure formalized inservices by SANE personnel regarding adherence to evidence collection protocols
- Establishing Memorandum of Understanding for SANE group to function as evidence collection technicians, ensured proper credentialing within NMCP Professional Affairs division allowing them to practice within the facility.

## **HCR Reference Number: 01050**

- Networking with NCIS to identify which NMCP law enforcement jurisdictions in Hampton Roads region that would utilize the SANE services at NMCP.
- Educating all EMD staff (Physicians [Attending and Residents], Nurses and Hospital Corpsmen) regarding revisions to Sexual Assault policy. Rather than evaluate patient and transfer to another facility for evidence collection as previously done, patients would receive all medical care, evidence collection, and counseling, and follow up at one location.

Prior to this initiative past procedures dictated that any patient (pediatric or adult) presenting with the complaint of alleged sexual assault would be screened and treated by Emergency staff physicians for physical and life harming trauma. Patients would then be transferred to a neighboring civilian treatment center where evidence collection by a certified Sexual Nurse Examiner (SANE) would be conducted. Because NMCP did not have any qualified staff to perform evidence collection, military commands would be financially responsible for both the SANE exam and use of civilian facility.

### **Expected Results of Initiative:**

The EMD expects to see the following an increase in the number of treated sexual assault patients at NMCP. Secondly, NMCP expects to see a decline in funds paid by military commands given that the examination is performed at NMCP. Patients' satisfaction will increase due to receiving medical treatment, evidence collection, patient counseling, and education in one physical location. The EMD expects an increase in staff satisfaction. The SANE program will provide a learning experience for both the Emergency and Pediatric resident physicians and Emergency nurses in teaching fundamentals of data assessment and evaluation, proper evidence collection, counseling and support services required of the sexual assault victim.

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### **POINT OF CONTACT (POC) INFORMATION**

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